Labour force in railways

*300. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total labour force in different categories in Railways, zone-wise, during the years ending December 31 in 1998, 1999 and 2000; and

(b) the vacancies occurred and fillcd-up, category-wise, in each zone during these three years?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Introduction of genetically modified foods

2115. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to develop and introduce genetically modified foods;

(b) whether some countries have strongly opposed entry of Frankcn Foods into their countries;

(c) whether several West European countries have banned entry of genetically engineered foods;

(d) if so, the reasons for which these countries have clamped entry ban on genetically engineered foods; and

(e) the reasons for India going ahead with introduction of genetically engineered golden rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH): (a) to (d) The Government of India has not yet accorded approval for commercial release of any Generally Engineered Food

in the country. As per available information, many countries including West European countries are insisting on labelling of Genetically Modified/Genetically Engineered foods for giving informed choice to the consumers. Only Sri Lanka has so far banned these products in their country.

(e) The Department of Biotechnology has undertaken a Joint Research project on Golden Rice under the second phase of Indo-Swiss Collaboration in Biotechnology. There is no proposal for introduction of genetically engineered rice in immediate future.

Horticulture development in Himachal Pradesh

2116. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any plan for development of horticulture in Himachal Pradesh, where production of fruits is in plenty;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Himachal Pradesh have chalked out plans for the development of horticulture in the State under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture-Supplementation/Complementation of State's Efforts through Work Plans. An outlay of Rs 578.00 lakhs have been earmarked for the purpose during 2001-02.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) An amount of Rs. 810.00 lakhs has been released to the Government of Himachal Pradesh under the Macro Management Scheme during 2001-02.